IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite Claim 1 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as amended and made effective July 30, 2003:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing an L-amino acid comprising culturing an *Escherichia coli* bacterium in a medium; allowing said L-amino acid to accumulate in the medium and/or in the cells of the bacterium; and collecting said L-amino acid, wherein the gene encoding the RMF protein, wherein said gene is located on the chromosome of said *Escherichia coli*, or an expression control sequence of said gene ~~controlling sequence of rmf gene of said *Escherichia coli* bacterium~~ is mutated so that said RMF protein is inactive, and wherein said L-amino acid is produced in larger quantities than if the RMF protein were active.

2-5 (cancelled)

6. (previously presented)The method according to claim 1, wherein said L-amino acid is L-lysine.